



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 June 1967



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LATE ITEMS

Libya

The US Embassy in Benghazi flashed word at 4:30 AM EDT that it was being attacked by a large mob. It is burning its papers.

Syria

Damascus radio announces that Syrian planes are bombing Israeli cities and that "we have joined the battle."

DAILY BRIEF
5 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Hostilities began early this morning. Both sides report heavy fighting in the air and between armored forces along the Israeli border with Egypt. Israeli planes raided airfields in Cairo and other areas beginning at about 8:00 AM local time (2:00 AM Washington time).

Cairo has just been informed that at least five of its airfields in Sinai and the Canal area have suddenly become "unservicable." Israel's war plans had put high priority on quick action against the Egyptian Air Force because of the threat to its own more vulnerable airfields and vital centers.

Reports are still fragmentary, but the signs point to this as an Israeli initiative. Over the weekend it became apparent that Israeli leaders were becoming increasingly convinced that time was running against them. The new Israeli cabinet was meeting late yesterday with Ambassador Harmel present, and reconvened early today.

Cairo radio is calling on Egypt's Arab allies to attack Israel.

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2. Libya

The big US Wheelus base is becoming more and more exposed to nationalist pressures as the Arab war fever sweeps over this desert kingdom. Cairo is going all out to intensify the pressures, and responsible Libyans are worried; they see no way they can convincingly refute the propaganda that the base is being used to support the Israelis.

The Libyan foreign minister has been in Cairo this weekend, and Wheelus surely must have been discussed during his talks with Nasir.

3. Soviet Union

A Soviet nuclear-powered submarine may have entered the Mediterranean from the Atlantic last Friday. Two Soviet diesel subs probably followed it on Saturday. The Soviets are believed to have had four other diesel subs already operating in the Mediterranean.

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4. Nigeria

Both sides are preparing for war. Leaders of the breakaway republic in the East have evidence leading them to expect federal troops to attack today. The orderly evacuation of US dependents from the East began yesterday and is to continue today.

The federal government was strengthened over the weekend with the formation of an executive council with civilian representation. The leading political chieftain of the West was included. This has, at least for a time, reduced the danger of Western secession, which would surely have produced serious violence.

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5. Hong Kong

The Communists' threatened general strike failed to materialize over the weekend. The government's firm measures seem to be paying off. The British remain ready for the next round, however, and the Chinese are talking as though they expect a protracted campaign.

6. North Vietnam

Hanoi has again informally approached Paris on the possibility of French mediation of the war.

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North Vietnam's Foreign Minister Trinh [] has come out with another public statement that an end to US operations against North Vietnam "could" be a step toward settlement of the war. He made this otherwise non-committal statement to a Japanese newsman on Monday.

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